

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of handling a facsimile image received by a facsimile system, the method comprising the steps of:

 comparing a junk fax image stored in a junk fax database to an incoming facsimile image;

 and

 disposing of the incoming facsimile image in the case that the junk fax image matches at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein, in the case that a match does not exist, the method further comprises the steps of:

 determining whether the incoming facsimile image is of a junk fax; and

 saving at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image as a junk fax image in the junk fax database in the case that the incoming facsimile image is of a junk fax.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the determining step includes:

 displaying at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image, and

 allowing a recipient to determine whether the incoming facsimile image is of a junk fax.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the junk fax image includes at least a portion of an analyzed facsimile image that has been designated as a junk fax.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the junk fax image database includes a plurality of junk fax images, and the step of disposing occurs in the case that at least one of the plurality of junk fax images matches at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the disposing step includes one of:
 - a) deleting the incoming facsimile image; and
 - b) terminating communication of the incoming facsimile image to the facsimile system.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
 - calculating a toner count of at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image; and
 - processing the incoming facsimile image in the case that the toner count is below a threshold.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the incoming facsimile image is generated by scanning a hard copy document.

9. A facsimile system comprising:
- a receiver configured to receive an incoming facsimile image; and
 - a junk fax analyzer comprising:
 - a comparator configured to compare a junk fax image to the incoming facsimile image; and
 - a disposal configured to dispose of the incoming facsimile image in the case that the junk fax image matches at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the junk fax analyzer further comprises a toner count calculator configured to calculate a toner count of at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image.
11. The system of claim 9, wherein the junk fax analyzer further comprises:
- a junk fax determinator configured to determine whether the incoming facsimile image is a junk fax, and save at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image as a junk fax image in a junk fax database in the case that the incoming facsimile image is a junk fax.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the junk fax determinator includes:
- a display configured to display at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image; and
 - an interface configured to allow a recipient to input whether the incoming facsimile image is a junk fax.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the junk fax determinator further comprises a selector configured to allow the recipient to select at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image to be saved as the junk fax image.

14. The system of claim 9, wherein the junk fax image includes at least a portion of one of: an analyzed facsimile image from a previous communication to the facsimile system and an image of a hard copy document.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein the junk fax image includes a plurality of junk fax images, and the step of disposing occurs in the case that at least one of the plurality of junk fax images matches at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image.

16. The system of claim 9, wherein the disposal includes:

- a) means for deleting the incoming facsimile image; and
- b) means for terminating communication of the incoming facsimile image to the facsimile system.

17. A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for analyzing an image on a facsimile system, the program product comprising:

program code configured to compare a junk fax image stored in a junk fax database to an incoming facsimile image; and

program code configured to dispose of the incoming facsimile image in the case that the junk fax image matches at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image.

18. The program product of claim 17, further comprising program code configured to determine whether the incoming facsimile image is of a junk fax in the case that a match does not exist, and save at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image as a junk fax image in a junk fax database in the case that the incoming facsimile image is of a junk fax.

19. The program product of claim 18, wherein the determining program code includes:
program code configured to display at least a portion of the incoming facsimile image;
and

program code configured to allow a recipient to input whether the incoming facsimile image is a junk fax.

20. The program product of claim 17, wherein the disposing program code includes program code configured to conduct one of:

- a) delete the incoming facsimile image; and
- b) terminate communication of the incoming facsimile image to the facsimile system.